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Report : Petition of S. Dick

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S. Rep. No. 443, 42nd Cong., 3rd Sess. (1873)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 15, 1873.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BUCKINGHAM submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1246.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Siloma Dick, widow of Philip H. Dick, praying to be re-imbursed for losses sustained in consequence of the depredations of the Sioux Indians in Minnesota, in 1862, with the accompanying papers, report:

That at the time of the Indian outbreak in 1862, the petitioner, with her husband and family, lived in Mananah, Meeker County, Minnesota, and was possessed of certain property enumerated in a schedule attached to her petition. On account of said outbreak the family was obliged to leave their home and property and remove to Forest City, and in attempting to return and save the property, petitioner's husband was killed by the Sioux Indians. Petitioner was then aided by friends to go to the State of New York, whence she did not return until 1865. Not reading or writing English, she heard nothing of the appointment of commissioners by the Government to audit and settle claims on account of such depredations, and was therefore unable to present such claims. With regard to the dates at which the several events occurred, the affidavits are not in harmony with each other nor with the facts, but the witnesses agree as to the loss of the property and its ownership. These facts are attested by various witnesses, the immediate neighbors of the petitioner, whose respectability is vouched for by the principal county officers of Meeker County, the receiver and register of the United States land-office, and a member of the Minnesota legislature.

The amount claimed as the value of the articles lost, as set forth in the schedule and additional affidavit of petitioner, is \$1,927.40, on which interest is also claimed for ten years at 7 per cent. While the committee are satisfied with the proof of the main facts in the case, they regard the amount as excessive. They have therefore made a reduction of the amount to \$1,095.37, and recommend the passage of the accompanying bill.